

Urban District of Lakes



ANNUAL REPORT

of the

Medical Officer

— of Health —

For the Year 1945.

*To the Chairman and Members
of the Urban District Council of Lakes.*

Sir, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I have the honour to submit to you my Annual Report on the Health of the Urban District during the year 1945. The Report follows the lines of those presented during the past few years.

I am indebted to the help I have received from the School Medical Officers of the County in the carrying out of Immunisation against Diphtheria and tend to them my thanks.

The work of the Sanitary Inspector has been most efficient and though often entailing overtime, has been cheerfully carried out and I would thank him for his valuable help.

The Medical Profession has given me all the assistance required and so assured harmonious working between the departments of Private and Public Medicine; for this I am most grateful.

As this will probably be the last occasion on which I shall make an Annual Report to you, I wish to acknowledge the unfailing help I have received from your Officials and for the constant courtesy given to me by your Council during the more than 31 years of my happy service.

Should you desire any further particulars I shall be glad to supply the same on your request.

I have the honour to be,

Sir, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Your obedient servant,

W. BARON COCKHILL,
Medical Officer of Health.

1st July, 1946.

Staff.

There has been no change in the permanent Sanitary Dept. Staff but a temporary Assistant was engaged to assist in the Housing Survey.

ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

FOR THE

Year Ending December 31st, 1945.

Area (acres)	...	...	...	...	...	...	49,905
Registrar-General's estimate of resident population, Mid 1945	...	...	...	...	...	...	5,905

EXTRACTS FROM VITAL STATISTICS OF THE YEAR.

	Total.	M.	F.
Live Births (Legitimate)	54	26	28
„ „ (Illegitimate)	4	2	2
Birth Rate per 1,000 of the estimated resident population, 9.6.			
Birth Rate, England and Wales	16.1		
	Total.	M.	F.
Still Births	3	1	2
Rate per 1,000 of the estimated resident population, 0.51.			
Still Birth Rate, England and Wales,	0.46.		
Deaths	60	23	37
Death Rate per 1,000 of the estimated resident population, 10.1.			
Death Rate, England and Wales	11.4.		
Deaths from Puerperal Causes:			
Puerperal Sepsis	Nil.		
Other Puerperal Causes	Nil.		
Maternal Mortality Rate, England & Wales	1.79.		
Death Rate of Infants under 1 year of age:			
All infants per 1,000 live births	...	...	17.3
Legitimate infants per 1,000 legitimate live births	...	...	18.3
Illegitimate infants per 1,000 illegitimate live births	...	...	Nil.
Infantile Death Rate, England and Wales	...	...	46

Deaths from Cancer (all ages)	...	...	...	...	7
„ „ Measles (all ages)	...	...	...	...	Nil.
„ „ Whooping Cough (all ages)	...	...	...	...	Nil.
„ „ Diarrhoea (under 2 years of age)	...	...	...	...	Nil.

The largest number of deaths from any one cause were :—

Heart Disease	...	...	...	...	...	19
Intra-Cranial Vascular Lesions	...	...	...	...	...	7
Cancer	...	...	...	...	...	7

SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA.

Water.

All Public Supplies under the control of the Council were maintained in a satisfactory and efficient condition and were abundant; 58% of the houses in the Area are supplied.

A complaint was received regarding the impurity of water in a small private supply scheme involving 6 houses and upon analysis this was found to be unsatisfactory; a neighbouring owner who has installed a pump and chlorinating plant is prepared to provide a supply to the houses.

A partial renewal at Ambleside of the 3" main from Lake Road to Stonecroft and the Gas Works has been carried out and in place of the old cast iron pipe a 4" Everite one has been substituted. Further renewals are contemplated shortly. The supply to Patterdale and Little Langdale are under consideration.

Housing.

The number of inhabited houses in the Area is 1704.

One new house has been erected and six removed from the Rate Book.

Designs for the first year programme of eight houses to be erected at Blue Hill, Ambleside, have been approved by the Ministry of Health.

Drainage and Sewerage.

The Ambleside sewage works have been supplied with a considerable amount of spare parts so that the filter distributor gear has been overhauled and works more satisfactorily.

Closet Accommodation.

Eight conversions are in process of being made.

Sanitary Inspection of the Area.

Informal notices have generally secured the remedying of most of the defects found. Legal notices were issued and complied with in 15 instances during the year.

Evacuees.

Of the 2237 persons billeted in the Area only 2 remained in December, 1945.

Tents, Vans and Sheds.

A small colony of wooden huts has established itself without the Council's knowledge or approval. No effective action has yet been taken to deal with the same.

Bug Infestation.

Two bug infestations were reported and have been satisfactorily dealt with.

Hostels.

The Day and Residential Nursery at Quarry Garth has been closed.

There is a Hostel for lead miners at Glenridding.

INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD.

Milk.

Two new cowsheds with dairies have been erected during the year. Progress was slow owing to the scarcity of equipment and labour shortage. Of the 24 samples of milk taken for analysis 18 were tested for B.Coli contamination, 12 were satisfactory and 6 unsatisfactory. The whole of the 24 were tested for keeping quality by the methylene blye test, but only 13 satisfied the test: 19 were tested for T.B. and 1 gave a positive reaction.

Meat.

This is supplied from the Central Slaughter house at Kendal.

Food.

Two sanitary conveniences used in connection with premises used for the preparation of food were cleansed and repaired.

The following foodstuffs were condemned as unfit for human consumption and surrendered:—

Wet Fish ...	...	...	25 stones.
Tinned Fish ...	...	...	16 tins.
„ Meats ...	...	...	22 tins.
„ Beans ...	...	...	5 tins.
Sausages, etc. ...	...	...	25 lbs.
Sauces ...	...	...	188 packages.
Packet goods ...	...	...	39 packages.
Prunes ...	...	...	8 lbs.

ADULTERATION ETC., AND CHEMICAL AND BACTERIOLOGICAL EXAMINATION OF FOOD.

The County Council is the Food and Drugs Authority, and this work is carried out by Mr. C. J. H. Stock, B.Sc., F.I.C., County Analyst, Darlington.

PREVALENCE OF, AND CONTROL OVER, INFECTIOUS AND OTHER DISEASES.

In February and March there was an epidemic of Scarlet Fever which occurred in an evacuated school at Glenridding, 27 cases being notified: they were all of a very mild character: there were only two other cases of this disease, one each at Troutbeck and Rydal. In another Institution, 5 cases of Diphtheria were notified, all being associated with one another. Pneumonia was notified in 5 cases, one of which died, and there was one case of Encephalitis Lethargica which ended fatally. With the exception of the epidemic of Scarlet Fever and the few cases of Diphtheria, there is no reason to be dissatisfied with the general health of the District. Measles was prevalent, chiefly at Ambleside, 163 cases being notified, though no doubt there were many others who were never visited by a doctor, as is the usual case in epidemics of this disease, so that the statistics based on notification are never correct. In September and October, a dozen cases of Whooping Cough occurred in the Patterdale Area.

Artificial Immunisation against Diphtheria has been continued, 70 children under five and 145 children of school age have been immunised.

The School Medical Officer states that a high standard of Health, Nutrition and Cleanliness has been maintained throughout the year amongst the school children.

Modern Isolation Hospital accommodation is still lacking.

INFECTIOUS DISEASES TABLE

DISEASE	Total	AGES											Admitted to Hospital	Deaths	
		—1	1—	2—	3—	4—	5—	10—	15—	20—	35—	55—			65—
Scarlet Fever	29	—	—	—	—	—	10	18	—	1	—	—	—	1	—
Diphtheria	5	—	—	—	—	—	2	2	—	1	—	—	—	5	—
Pneumonia	4	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	1	1	1	—	1
Encephalitis Lethargica	1	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	1
Measles	163	3	9	15	10	19	68	32	1	2	3	1	—	7	—
Whooping Cough	12	—	2	—	3	—	6	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—
TOTAL ...	214	3	11	15	14	19	86	53	2	4	4	2	1	14	2

TUBERCULOSIS TABLE

AGE PERIODS	NEW CASES				DEATHS			
	Respiratory		Non Respiratory		Respiratory		Non Respiratory	
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
0	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
5	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—
15	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
25	1	1	—	—	—	1	—	—
35	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
45	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
55	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
65	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
TOTAL	1	1	—	1	—	1	—	—

There were only 2 cases of Pulmonary Tuberculosis and one of these had contracted the disease elsewhere but came to reside in the Area. There was one case of Abdominal Glandular infection.